

CHAPTER XIII: THE PRESIDIO GARRISON 1898-1905

A. The Garrison

In 1898 volunteer organizations from the many states poured into San Francisco to receive a modicum of training and be issued clothing and equipment before sailing for the Philippine Islands. A year later these regiments returned to California and Regular Army units replaced them in the Pacific. From 1902 to 1905 the Infantry Cantonment occupied the eastern portion of the Presidio reservation. Independent of the Presidio, the Cantonment reported directly to the Department of California headquarters in San Francisco. Throughout these years the Presidio garrison continued to carry out its missions despite the whirlwind of activity surrounding it.

In 1898 alone five different post commanders, including a brigadier general, regulated the garrison that was composed of the three combat areas: infantry, artillery, and cavalry. The average strength over the twelve months amounted to 30 officers and 1,024 enlisted men.¹ The post adjutant announced in January that each company could have only two dogs as mascots. The post quartermaster purchased car tickets at 5 cents each for the messenger service. Due to faulty installation nearly all the toilet bowls in the five brick barracks had broken, and a month later the quartermaster had to have the barracks sewer lines taken up and relaid (the general hospital then occupied two of these barracks). Colonel Miles discovered that a civilian fisherman had been living on the post for the past four years without authorization, whereas the eighteen civilians employed in the Quartermaster Department were legally on duty.²

The phrase "an officer and a gentlemen" is much more than a cliché in the U.S. Army, "The military officer is considered a gentleman, not because Congress wills it . . . but specifically because nothing less than a gentleman is truly suited for his particular set of responsibilities."³ During its nearly 150 years of

1. PSF, Post Returns, 1898. Commanders: Col. Evan Miles, 1st Infantry, May 1897-March 1898; Lt. Col. Louis T. Morris, 4th Cavalry, April-June 1898; Brig. Gen. Marcus P. Miller, U.S. Volunteers, July-September 1898; Maj. David H. Kinzie, 3d Artillery, October 1898; and Lt. Col. Henry Wagner, 4th Cavalry, November-December 1898. Camp Miller, eastern Presidio, and, later, Battery Marcus Miller at Fort Winfield Scott were both named for the general.

2. Post Adjutant, January 14, 1898; QMG, January 14, 1898, to CO, PSF, both in Register of Letters Received; Miles, January 27, 1898, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393; PSF, Post Returns 1898, NA.

3. U.S. Department of Defense, *The Armed Forces Officer* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1950), p. 4.

service as an American military post, the Presidio of San Francisco enjoyed a reputation of having an outstanding officer corps. A careful study of the historical record for the latter half of the nineteenth century showed that only rarely in those years did the occasional officer fail in his moral responsibilities. In those instances that did occur, nearly always the matter of money was the issue.

In the tumultuous year of 1898 when thousands of troops passed through the Presidio, events overwhelmed Lt. Alexander T. Dean, 4th Cavalry, then in his eighteenth year of active duty. Dean had a most difficult time keeping out of debt. Unfortunately, he duplicated his pay account, only to be discovered. His wife had already departed for her native country; Lieutenant Dean promptly resigned from the Army. A year later when the Presidio's strength had greatly declined, Lt. John M. Neall, 4th Cavalry, just a week before his promotion to captain came through, suddenly disappeared. For little more than a month he had had charge of the post exchange. Following an investigation, the post commander wrote that \$3,677.02 of exchange funds had disappeared also. Then, a month later, Neall reappeared at the Presidio and turned in almost \$5,000. Following a court martial, he was dismissed from the Army.⁴

Horses caused much correspondence this year. In May the commanding officer of Troop B, 4th Cavalry, requested that his troop be furnished with forty-four dark bay horses. If he acquired them, it was but for a short time because the 4th Cavalry squadron left for the Philippines, without its horses. The animals went to other 4th Cavalry units at Fort Walla Walla and Boise Barracks. With the 4th Cavalry gone, the 1st Troop, Utah Volunteer Cavalry, guarded the national parks that summer. General Miller arranged matters so that the two surgeons and two privates of the Hospital Corps received excess cavalry horses for the patrols to Yosemite and Sequoia. A piece of correspondence confirmed the fact that during these years dead horses and other animals were cremated at the dump ground on the Lower Presidio.⁵

The Chief Engineer of the San Francisco Fire Department, D. T. Sullivan, asked permission to see "the big guns" of the modern coastal batteries in November. Like so many others over the years, he learned that only the Secretary of War could give such permission. From the letter he received one learns that the

4. A.T. Dean, April 18, 1898, to CO, PSF; Proceedings of the Post Exchange Council, February 22, 189, to Department of California; C.E. Compton, March 19, 1899, to AG, USA, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

5. CO, Troop B, 4th Cavalry, May 8, 1898, Register of Letters Received; F.W. Harris, August 4, 1898, to AG, USA; M. Miller, August 5, 1898, to Department of California; and 2d Endorsement, Headquarters, Infantry Cantonment, January 12, 1905, all in Letters Sent; Special Orders 193, August 23, 1898, RG 393, NA.

Engineers had already erected wire enclosures around the fortifications.

A general order listing the post's bugle calls near the end of 1898 showed that the daily routine of the garrison had changed little. Among the new calls were Calisthenics for Infantry, Noncommissioned Officers School, Officers' Lyceum, Litter Bearer Drill, and Boat Call that sounded ten minutes before the wagonette left for the Presidio wharf on Thursdays and Fridays.⁶

The year ended with the return of Brig. Gen. William Shafter from his Cuban exploits to resume command of the Department of California. The George A. Thomas Post 2, Grand Army of the Republic, San Francisco, added Shafter's name to its rolls and welcomed him back with a reception. About this time Shafter received a letter from a black soldier who had served under him in the Civil War asking for his help in obtaining a pension. Having reached retirement age, Shafter retired on October 16, 1899, but remained on duty until June 1901 when he was promoted to major general on the retired list.⁷

The Presidio's strength declined greatly in 1899 with an average complement of 17 officers and 441 men. Again, the garrison consisted of the three combat arms. Personnel problems, both usual and unusual, became part of the record. Lt. Henry C. Evans, 3d Artillery, received a letter from the post adjutant asking for an explanation in writing why he had used profane language in addressing two members of the guard. His response seems to have slipped through the cracks. Meetings of the officers' lyceum in February 1899 offered the following papers: "Military Notes on the Philippine Islands," "Army Cooking," "The Fourth Cavalry in the National Parks," and "Volunteer Infantry." A cavalry sergeant named Wilson became a local hero in April 1899 when he rescued a drowning man near Fort Point. Although recommended for a promotion to second lieutenant, Sergeant Wilson had to settle for a Certificate of Merit.

6. F.W. Harris, November 29, 1898, to D.T. Sullivan, Register of Letters Received; General Orders 16, November 25, 1898, RG 393, NA.

7. AG, War Department, December 27, 1898, to Shafter; J.M. Baily, September 11, 1898, to Shafter; H.C. Corbin, October 16, 1899, and March 6, 1901, to Shafter, all in Shafter Papers, Stanford University. Shafter retired to his ranch near Bakersfield, California, where he died in 1906. His remains rest in the San Francisco National Cemetery. Paul H. Carlson, *"Pecos Bill," A Military Biography of William R. Shafter* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1989), pp. 158-159 and 189-193.

Soldiers again occupied the old masonry fort at Fort Point in 1899, when Battery I, 3d Artillery, marched there from the Presidio in March. This time overcrowding at the main post did not cause the transfer; rather, the need for the artillerymen to assist in mounting modern weapons in the new batteries and for the maintenance of the guns caused the change. In retrospect, this troop movement might be considered an early step in the establishment of a permanent garrison at Fort Winfield Scott.

In March 1901 the Presidio commander, Col. Jacob B. Rawles, 3d Artillery, received a letter from the Department asking for a post return for the troops stationed at Fort Scott. Rawles replied that Fort Winfield Scott was part of the Presidio and that the battery at Fort Point (by then the 28th Company, Coast Artillery) had quarters in the old casemates but was accounted for on the Presidio's post returns. Washington was not satisfied, "While the fact is *now* well known at this Office that Fort Winfield Scott is a sub-post of the Presidio, in ten years hence there would be nothing to show who commanded, or what was stationed there."

Rawles attempted to explain further saying that he had no recent records pertaining to Fort Scott, "I have never known that [the fort] of recent years, was regarded in any other light than as a barracks for one battery the same as the individual barracks nearer post headquarters. There is no Adjutant, Quartermaster, medical officer nor noncommissioned staff. . . . It is probably known at the War Department that this Fort is entirely abandoned . . . its present occupation by one battery of Artillery is occasioned simply by the fact that there is no other place in the vicinity [where] the new line of . . . modern armament is mounted wherein to quarter the command having the latter in charge."

Rawles did not win. The department commander, General Shafter, ordered Rawles to prepare a one-time post return for Fort Winfield Scott covering the period from July 1900 to April 1901:

July 1900 – January 1901, Battery E, 3d Artillery average strength – 1 officer, 91 enlisted men

February – April 1901, 28th Company, Coast Artillery average strength – 1 officer, 85 enlisted men.⁸

8. PSF, Post Returns, March 1899; Fort Winfield Scott, Post Returns, July 1900–April 1901, and correspondence accompanying the same; AG, War Department, March 25, 1901, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

Rules and regulations bombarded the Presidio garrison as before. In March 1899 news reporters learned that no one could use a camera on the reservation. Women received notice they could neither enter a barracks nor sit on barracks porches or steps. Privates were not allowed to "walk, stand, or lie" on the boardwalk leading from officers' row to the car terminus. For some time a civilian had been allowed to maintain a fruit stand at the terminus. By the spring of 1899 this man had come to think of himself as having vested rights in the enterprise. Finally, his attitude caused the Army to remove him from the reservation. A branch of the post exchange opened at the site. It supplied cigars and candy to soldiers and visitors and the profits contributed to the comfort and welfare of the command.⁹

Still the regulations came down from on high. In January 1900 enlisted men learned they no longer could have civilian clothing in their possession. Cavalry troopers returning from the Pacific had to get rid of the khaki uniform; only heavy artillery troops could wear that uniform on the mainland. In May 1900 all soldiers learned that San Francisco's Chinatown was off limits. Electrician Sgt. Charles Doyle, engineer at the Dynamite Battery, confessed in 1900 that under the name of William Steffy he had deserted from the Army in 1881 and for eighteen years had constantly feared being discovered. The post ordnance officer now came to his defense requesting a pardon for the sergeant. He had suffered enough. Another sergeant, Robert Z. Wilson, was murdered in the city about this time. The post commander heard that the wife of a soldier in the Philippines might have been involved.¹⁰

Colonel Rawles, who commanded the Presidio from 1900 to 1903, became utterly frustrated on the occasion when he learned that a guard of three corporals and six privates had allowed five prisoners to escape from an old kitchen and mess building that had been converted to a prison. It seemed that the men had escaped through a hole measuring 11 inches by 12½ inches in the floor. It had originally been cut for a cat to go in or out. Other Presidio soldiers earned the thanks of the nearby Fulton Iron Company for helping to put out a fire. A gift of \$100 purchased reading material for the post library.¹¹

9. F. Harris, March 18, 1899, to *San Francisco News Letter*; Compton, March 16, 1899, to E.H. Plummer; Surgeon, Camp of Volunteers, November 20, 1899, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; General Orders 5, April 15, 1899, RG 393, NA. A German army officer found himself under arrest in 1900 for photographing the coastal batteries. The Army confiscated his film then let him go.

10. Special Orders 16, January 16, 1900; General Orders 16, May 21, 1900; Post Adjutant, May 10, 1900, to CO, Troop F, 6th Cavalry; W.S. McNair, May 21, 1900, to Post Adjutant, Register of Letters Received; J.B. Rawles, May 25, 1900, to AG, USA, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

11. Rawles, September 27, 1900, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, and September 29, 1900, to J.M. Marshall, Letters Sent; RG 393, NA.

Little mention of army wives during this period has survived in official correspondence. In May 1900, however, the post chaplain, Joseph A. Potter, received orders to survey the women and children of soldiers serving overseas to determine any problems they experienced. He found only two situations requiring attention. Both women's husbands served in the 24th Infantry, then in the Philippines. Mrs. Myers' husband had sent back no money since going overseas. Mrs. Holt had received funds but rheumatism had rendered her disabled. Colonel Rawles noted that these wives lived reasonably comfortably in converted kitchen buildings in one of the abandoned camp areas. About the same time the War Department asked if the widows and children of deceased soldiers lived on the reservation. The Presidio replied that none did.¹²

Beginning in 1901 the Presidio's personnel strength grew steadily, particularly in the artillery, because of the increases in the coastal defenses. The cavalry, too, doubled from two troops to a full squadron of four. Colonel Morris wrote about the need for more cavalry: dogs running loose, automobiles speeding, fires, and incidents of robbery on the reservation:

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|---|-------------|
| January 1901: 19 officers, 685 enlisted men | |
| coast artillery | 1 company |
| field artillery | 1 battery |
| cavalry | 2 troops |
| infantry | 3 companies |
| January 1902: 31 officers, 1009 enlisted men | |
| coast artillery | 5 companies |
| field artillery | 4 batteries |
| cavalry | 5 troops |
| infantry | 1 company |
| January 1903: 42 officers, 1,137 enlisted men | |
| coast artillery | 5 companies |
| field artillery | 4 batteries |
| cavalry | 4 troops |
| January 1904: 41 officers, 1,183 enlisted men | |
| coast artillery | 6 companies |
| field artillery | 3 batteries |
| cavalry | 4 troops |

12. Rawles, May 4, 1900, to AG, USA, and May 11, 1900, to Shafter, Letters Sent; AG, USA, June 26, 1900, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| January 1905: 43 officers, 1,330 enlisted men | |
| coast artillery | 9 companies |
| field artillery | 3 batteries |
| cavalry | 4 troops ¹³ |

The gradual increase in strength caused problems in overcrowding at the Presidio. An assistant surgeon asked to be excused from duty as officer of the day at the post hospital because he had to live in San Francisco and there was no place on the post where he could be present for the required twenty-four hours. A captain in Texas who had orders for the Philippines wrote the Presidio asking if it had quarters for his family. Colonel Rawles answered in the negative but suggested that the captain apply to Benicia Barracks. Even the chaplain said that the post chapel had become too crowded. He recommended construction of a new, larger chapel as a memorial to the late Maj. Gen. Henry W. Lawton who had been killed at the battle of San Mateo in the Philippines in 1899. The chaplain believed that army personnel would contribute the necessary funds. Concerning the post Colonel Rawles reported in February 1901 that all the barracks, brick or wooden, were full and space did not permit for one more company. Only tents could provide additional facilities.¹⁴

The big event of 1901 came in May when Presidio soldiers provided the escort for the visit of President William McKinley at San Francisco. On May 17 the President visited the reservation and addressed a gathering in front of the new U.S. Army General Hospital. The field artillery fired a salute on McKinley's arrival. Only four months later the Presidio mourned the commander in chief's death at the hands of an assassin. On September 17 thirteen guns fired a salute at dawn and a single gun fired every thirty minutes throughout the day. At sunset a salute of the Union, forty-five guns, ended the day.¹⁵

13. PSF, Post Returns 1901-1905. Before 1901 the Artillery was a single combat arm. In the army-wide reorganization that year a new Corps of Artillery was created. Within it the coast artillery and the field artillery were partially separated. The 120 companies of coast artillery and the 30 batteries of field artillery were now identified by numbers rather than letters, e.g., 1st Company, Coast Artillery; 1st Battery, Field Artillery; and the regimental system was abolished. In 1907 the Army completely separated coast and field artillery into distinct branches and organized the coast artillery troops into the Coast Artillery Corps (CAC). The Field Artillery reintroduced letters for identification. *The Army Almanac*, p. 12.

14. A.J. Pedlar, January 23, 1901; T. Trippe, March 17, 1901; and Post Chaplain, May 10, 1901, all to CO, PSF; Rawles, February 4, 1901, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

15. AG, Department of California, May 13 and 15, 1901, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; General Orders 2, September 16, 1901, RG 393, NA.

In May 1901 the War Department sent to the Presidio a revocable license for Mr. Bruce Porter, San Francisco, allowing him to extend his residence adjacent to the reservation over the boundary wall for a distance of three feet. Between 1881 and 1905, the Army issued ten such revocable licenses:

- 1881. Presidio Railroad Company, track extension
- 1888. U.S. Treasury Department, life saving purposes
- 1891. U.S. Treasury Department, tower at Fort Point
- 1892. Presidio and Ferries Railroad Co., cable railroad
- 1900. Mary Holt Rose, extend cottage 1½ feet beyond wall
- 1900. Western Union Telegraph Co., change of telegraph line
- 1901. Bruce Porter, extension of residence
- 1902. Bernard Faymonville, extend cottage 3 feet
- 1905. U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, construct a dwelling
- 1905. J. D. Givens, temporary building for photo business¹⁶

The daily routine of the post was punctuated from time to time with minor events. The commanding officer of the 28th Company, Coast Artillery, at Fort Point reported in April 1901 that he had followed orders and had given a tour of one of the off-limits coastal batteries to six unidentified civilians (three ladies and three gentlemen). Modern technology again entered the picture that year when the quartermaster requested \$20 to repair the post's three typewriters. Enlisted men continued to add interest to the post's correspondence. Rct. Ralph R. Henriche, cavalry, with the full support of his family, begged assignment to the Philippines. Colonel Rawles having learned the reason for the urgent request (but keeping it to himself), recommended approval. Two privates, Joseph M. Hayden and George E. Johnson, both Hospital Corps, had not waited for approval. They stowed away on army transport *Logan* only to be discovered in the Philippine Islands. Both returned to the Presidio under arrest. In contrast to their behavior, Cpl. Paul Arndt, 3d Band, Artillery Corps, received permission from the War Department to take a civil service examination in San Francisco.¹⁷

The main target range in the southwest corner of the reservation came under attack in 1902. As the Army had dreaded, stray bullets flew over the butts onto private property beyond. Because developers had begun to consider development on that property, the Presidio was forced to suspend rifle practice there

16. PSF, Revocable Licenses, File R-2, Master Plans, DEH, PSF.

17. CO, 28th Company, April 26, 1902, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; R.R. Henriche, February 17, 1901, and AG, USA, February 7, 1902, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

indefinitely.¹⁸

Congressman Julius Kahn, San Francisco's Republican representative to the U.S. Congress, appreciative of the Army's presence in the Bay Area, wrote Colonel Rawles in 1902 seeking assistance for constituents. He asked the colonel to allow one citizen to remove sand from the Lower Presidio and, on another occasion, requested Rawles to appoint Walter McGinn to the position of post trainmaster (for wagon and mule trails). Rawles probably was relieved to refer the congressman to the Department of California and the U.S. Civil Service.¹⁹

In 1902 the Presidio's mounted patrol asked permission to ride the length of the footpath (Lovers Lane) from the main post to the Central Avenue gate. While Colonel Rawles noted the advantages of such a patrol, he declined to give approval saying that the walk was intended for pedestrians only. Also, many ladies used the path and horses' hooves would only cut it up, to say nothing of their droppings. That same year the U.S. Postmaster General threatened to close the Presidio's post office. Widow Andrews still served as postmistress and Rawles wrote Washington asking that effort be made to keep the office open and Mrs. Andrews retained. San Francisco physician Dr. F.R. Orella wrote a month later saying that a gun belonging to the Field Artillery had accidentally run into his buggy, smashing it. He now suffered nervous shock and wanted compensation. This issue dragged on forever without any apparent resolution.

When the 3d Squadron (Troops K, L, and M) of the 9th Cavalry arrived at the Presidio in October 1902, it was dismayed to find that its horses had been assigned to the new but flimsy shed stables that had been erected on "the flats" in the Lower Presidio. It applied for the stables on the bluff that former cavalry units had used, to no avail. This incident began a long dreary discussion concerning these stables and the

18. Rawles, February 19 and March 8, 1902, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA. A new rifle range was constructed southeast of the main post, roughly where the Athletic Field now stands. The 1,000-foot range went by the name "Protected Rifle Range." This was at least the third small arms range at the Presidio. Around 1880 target butts stood near the bay in the northeast corner of the reservation. Occasionally stray bullets landed at the nearby Harbor View resort.

19. Rawles, March 9 and October 27, 1902, to Kahn, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. Julius Kahn, born in Germany in 1861 of Jewish parents, migrated to the United States in 1865. He settled in San Francisco where he took up acting and married Florence Prag in 1899. He next studied law and was elected to the California state assembly for one term in 1892. In 1898 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He lost the 1902 election but again took the office in 1904. He remained in the U.S. Congress until his death in 1924. Alan Boxerman, "Kahn of California," *California Historical Quarterly*, 55: 340.

wet ground on which they stood that lasted until 1914. About the same time the post surgeon reported the unsanitary condition of the last remaining pond in the northeast corner of the reservation. He urged its clean up and continued maintenance because soldiers continued to bathe there.²⁰

While the monthly reports of the Presidio's post surgeon have not been located, a letter by Maj. Henry S. Kilbourne in 1902 spelled out his several duties:

On duty as surgeon in the post hospital.

Member of a board of medical officers to examine candidates for the Medical Corps.

Member of the Army Retiring Board at San Francisco.

Member of a Board of Officers to examine officers for promotion.

Member of a Board of Officers to examine civilian candidates for appointment as second lieutenants in the Army.

Despite the establishment of a general hospital at the Presidio, the post surgeons' responsibilities continued to increase. In 1904 Surgeon Maj. William Stephenson pleaded for the stationing of a third doctor at the Presidio because it now had one of the largest military populations in the Army. In addition to the 1,600-man garrison, the surgeons cared for a large contingent of active and retired officers' and soldiers' families, servants, widows, and families of soldiers in the Philippines living near the reservation. The two doctors also sat on examining and courts martial boards, supervised the medical needs of troops en route to and from the Philippines (vaccinations, sick calls, etc.), and completing the extensive administration work. The Army responded to this situation by assigning a third post surgeon to the Presidio at the end of 1904.²¹

Rawles, too, commented on his extensive duties: commander of a large post, commander of the Artillery District of San Francisco, and acting commander of the Department of California. The Presidio alone with its large garrison, the constantly changing strength, the stopping place of all troops going to and

20. Rawles, March 18, 1902, to CO, 28th Infantry; A. Todd, November 13, 1902, to CO, 3d Squadron, 9th Cavalry; F.R. Orella, April 10, 1902, to CO, PSF; Post Surgeon, June 18, 1902, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; Rawles, March 23, 1902, to AG, USA, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

21. H.S. Kilbourne, September 30, 1902, to CO, PSF; W. Stephenson, June 2, 1904, to Adjutant, Letters and Endorsements, Medical Department, 1902-1906, RG 393, NA.

returning from the Philippines, and the rendezvous for thousands of recruits, was a full time job. He asked to be relieved from his position as President of the Examining Board that determined officers' promotions.²²

Lt. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, now the commanding general of the U.S. Army and nearing retirement, paid a two-day visit to the Presidio of San Francisco in September 1902. On the first day he toured the modern fortifications (24 heavy artillery pieces and 32 mortars) in the Fort Winfield Scott area and on the following morning he reviewed the Presidio troops (1,047 enlisted men, 400 horses, 24 field artillery, and 4 Colt automatic guns, .30 caliber).²³

Col. Charles Morris, Artillery Corps, who took command of the Presidio in October 1903, tackled a new problem soon after his arrival – the automobile. Writing to the president of the Automobile Club of California, he noted with regret that autos utterly disregarded the posted speed limits. If drivers continued their defiance of the rules, he would take drastic measures. It seemed that a particular automobile had raced toward the general hospital at a reckless speed. When a sentinel ordered it to halt, the driver responded with, "Go to Hell." An army officer, mounted, gave chase and overtook the machine. He identified the driver as Dr. James Osborne of the City Hospital. A letter to the doctor asked him if he wished to make a statement regarding the incident.

Other incidents of speeding occurred. On one occasion the gate keepers had orders to prohibit "Automobile No. 8" from entering the reservation. General Orders published early in 1904 announced the speed limits:

All roads east of the brick barracks – 6 miles per hour.

Roads immediately in vicinity of officers' row – 4 miles per hour.

All other roads – 10 miles per hour.

Pedestrians had the right of way.²⁴

22. Rawles, March 26, 1902, to RG, USA, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

23. PSF, Post Returns, 1902.

24. Post Adjutant, September 16, 1903, to J. Osborne; Morris, December 5, 1903, to F.A. Hyde, Letters Sent; General Orders 18, March 5, 1904, RG 393, NA.

A new chaplain arrived at the post in 1903 – Chaplain Patrick Hart, Artillery Corps and Roman Catholic. His arrival caused the preparation of a short history of the chapels. The quartermaster department performed the maintenance of the "regular" post chapel. Members of the garrison had installed the interior fittings, memorial windows, and organ during the time that Daniel Kendig had served as chaplain. For a number of years the former streetcar station had served as a chapel for Catholics and clergy from the city had conducted services. Now, however, Chaplain Hart assumed responsibility for the post chapel. Protestants were granted use of the chapel on Sunday and Thursday evenings.²⁵

Citizen C.L. Chester asked permission to take photographs on the reservation in 1903. The Army denied him a permit inasmuch as another person, J. D. Givens, already had a photo studio in the Infantry Cantonment. The Department of California had authorized Givens to occupy a small building near the streetcar terminal. He had enlarged it, converting the structure into a studio and living quarters. This structure, eventually numbered 560, continued to serve as a studio as late as 1946 when the proprietor was Nita Paula Evans.²⁶

President Theodore Roosevelt visited San Francisco in May 1903. During his stay, Troops I and M, 9th Cavalry, served as his escort. In addition, four companies of the Coast Artillery escorted the President from the Palace hotel to the Mechanics Pavilion in Golden Gate Park. On May 13, President Roosevelt reviewed the command on the Presidio's golf links. Next day the 60th Company, Coast Artillery, participated in the ceremonies for the dedication of a naval monument in the city with the President in attendance.²⁷

One year later, Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, commanding the Pacific Division, inspected the Presidio. On the first day he inspected the entire command, under arms, on the golf links. A review followed with

25. G.T. Grimes, April 27, 1903, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. Hart also became superintendent of the post schools for enlisted men and children.

26. Rawles, February 25, 1903, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA; QMC Form 117, Building Records, PSF.

27. G. Andrews, Memorandum, May 6, 1903, RG 393; Post Returns May 1903, NA. The garrison consisted of headquarters staff, 3d Band, 6 companies of Coast Artillery, 3 batteries of Field Artillery, 4 troops of 9th Cavalry, and 2 companies of Coast Artillery casually at the post - 33 officers and 1,192 enlisted men.

the cavalry and field artillery passing at a trot and a gallop. MacArthur then inspected the barracks, gymnasium, guardhouse, stables, storehouses, and bakery. On the following day the coastal batteries received his attention. This was the last inspection for the 3d Squadron, 9th Cavalry ("Buffalo Soldiers") at the Presidio. In July the squadron went on maneuvers for two months, returning, not to the garrison, but for a brief stopover at the Infantry Cantonment before transferring to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. Capt. Charles Young, the third black graduate from West Point, who commanded Troop I, 9th Cavalry, had already departed the Presidio to be a military attaché at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.²⁸

Distinguished visitors continued to be drawn to the Presidio and San Francisco. In October 1904 a battalion of Coast Artillery troops served as an escort to the Vice President Ramon Corral, Republic of Mexico. Several months later the Secretary of War William H. Taft reviewed the command. Maj. Gen. Samuel S. Summer, Pacific Division, and Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston, Department of California, accompanied the secretary. Another visitor to San Francisco during these years, 2d Lt. Douglas MacArthur, fresh from his West Point graduation, spent the summer of 1903 at the Fort Mason quarters of his father, Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur. Following a tour in the Philippines, young MacArthur returned to San Francisco and took up duties with the U.S. Corps of Engineers (harbor defense and the California Debris Commission). Hardly had he begun that assignment when he received orders to join his father as observers during the Russo-Japanese War.²⁹

Life in the enlisted ranks evolved in unexpected ways as 1905 unwound. When an explosion tore apart the boiler room of USS *Bennington* in San Diego Harbor, one officer and sixty-five of the crew lay dead. The U.S. General Hospital at the Presidio immediately dispatched medical assistance. Later, one of the remains was interred at the Presidio's national cemetery. Chaplain Hart presided over the funeral of the late Chief Petty Officer Frank de Guston. Coast Artillery soldiers furnished the escort, pallbearers, firing party, and a musician. All the garrison, in dress uniform and white gloves, attended the burial.

28. Morris, May 20, 1904, to P.W. Went; Post Adjutant, June 28, 1904, Memorandum, Letters Sent, RG 393, Post Returns 1904, NA. Strangely, the Post Returns placed Santo Domingo in Haiti.

29. PSF, Post Returns, 1904-1905. MacArthur returned to San Francisco in October 1930 on a brief assignment with the headquarters of the Ninth Corps Area at the Presidio and again in 1951 following his relief as Supreme Commander of United Nations Forces in Korea, "Our welcome home was tumultuous. It seemed to me that every man, woman, and child in San Francisco turned out to cheer us." Douglas MacArthur, *Reminiscences* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1964), pp. 28, 30, 89, and 400.

That summer Colonel Morris requested that a second sergeant major be assigned to the Presidio. The administrative burden had become too great to be managed by just the traditional sergeant major. Marriage continued to be a problem for enlisted men. One soldier who had married without authorization was refused permission to reenlist. At the same time a married corporal was refused a discharge. While he had difficulty supporting his wife on a corporal's pay and had saved the necessary \$65 to purchase an early discharge, the Army decided that his experience as an artilleryman could not be spared.³⁰

Some enlisted men continued to tangle with authority. Two corporals of the 28th Infantry got themselves arrested for fighting in front of officers row one spring night. Just after the 67th Company, Coast Artillery, arrived at the Presidio after five years in Hawaii, a large number deserted. An investigation showed that they had to work harder in California; many were in debt; their commander was absent on detached service; their sergeants lacked leadership; and they hated marching across the reservation to practice on the coastal guns.

Other soldiers diverted their energies in more positive ways. The men of the 70th Company, Coast Artillery, received permission to form a dancing club and to give dances twice a month in the new brick gymnasium. When the Department of California sought lasso experts to round up loose cattle on Angel Island, Colonel Morris made a survey only to report that the Presidio had no rope experts. Pvt. Michael Flanigan, Coast Artillery, requested a five-month furlough in 1905 in order to visit his native country. Colonel Morris readily approved. For some months past Private Flanigan had been helping the wife of Maj. Benjamin H. Randolph care for her paralytic husband, the victim of a stroke. Flanigan planned to spend part of his leave packing the Randolphs' possessions.

Athletics continued to play an important role in the garrison's affairs. Prisoners from Alcatraz prepared a new athletic field in 1905. Before then, enlisted men had had access to baseball diamonds. The civilian military Golf Club continued to be active, even if military reviews occasionally tore up the links. On one occasion an Australian cricket club sought permission to practice on the links.³¹

30. PSF Special Orders 194, August 15, 1905; Morris, July 18, 1905, to Department of California, Letters Sent, and May 1904 to the Department, Register of Letters Received; H. Kilbourne, February 10, 1903, to CO, PSF, Letters and Endorsements, Medical Department, RG 393, NA.

31. The location of the new athletic field has not been determined. C. Morris, March 12, 1904, Register of Letters Received, and August 12, 1904, August 2 and October 9, 1905, to Department of California, and July 25, 1905, to C.T. Abbott, Letters Sent; CO, 70th Company, CA, November 8, 1905, to CO, PSF, and Post

The civilian community continued to exert its influence on the garrison in the often tenuous relationship between the army and the city. In 1904 Colonel Morris found himself in an awkward position when he had to write the mother of two small girls who had been picking flowers on officers' row for their "father's grave." The colonel wrote that this was an old ploy and he was sure the mother would like to know about the girls. On another occasion, seventy-five men from San Francisco held a "boisterous" beer party on the banks of Lobos Creek. Thomas Clancy, 625 Kearny, and Ernest Buhlin, 716 Kearny, saloon keepers, had supplied the beer. This was not the first time a bacchanalia had been held on the banks and Morris sought the help of the San Francisco chief of police in stopping further parties. In 1905 Max Ulrich, San Francisco, sought permission to erect a banking house on the reservation. Morris strongly recommended disapproval as it would set a precedent in turning over portions of the reservation to civilian authorities. That fall a civilian male committed suicide on the reservation, possibly along Arguello Boulevard. A letter found on the body bore the name of L.G. Brandes, San Francisco.³²

In 1904 the Presidio headquarters published a consolidation of the Post Orders. From that lengthy list the following have been extracted:

A patient in the Post Hospital shall not be transferred to the General Hospital without the authority of the post commander.

Men in confinement in the post guardhouse shall not have money.

When drill for the Coast Artillery is to be indoors or when guard mounting is to be in campaign hats and leggings a red flag with a white center shall be hoisted above the Summary Court Office.

Following rates to be charged for making and altering uniforms by company or civilian tailors:

(..continued)

Quartermaster, August 2, 1905, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; Captain Burgess, May 23, 1905, to J.E. Rogers, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

32. Morris, August 23, 1904, to Mrs. Miller, and June 26, 1905, to Chief of Police, Letters Sent; Morris, April 21, 1905, to Department of California, Register of Letters Sent; R. Patterson, November 27, 1905, to Coroner, SF, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Making uniform coat for private | \$2.50 |
| Making trousers, private | \$2.00 |
| Altering uniform coat for private | 1.75 |
| Making trousers, NCO | 2.50 |
| Making an overcoat | 3.50 |
| Saving stripes, NCO | .75 |
| Making a blouse | 2.50 |
| Sewing chevrons | .25 |
| Altering a blouse | 1.75 |
| Inserting new overcoat lining | 1.00 |

All practice on bugles at this post shall take place near the beach west of the Life Saving Station.

Soldiers in civilian clothing are not allowed in the gymnasium.

No boys or civilians are allowed in or around government buildings.

Cameras are allowed east of the brick barracks only.³³

In addition to accounting for the personnel of the garrison, the Post Returns illuminated other aspects of the reservation. The returns for January 1904 indicated the following particulars:

Regular garrison

507 horses
 24 heavy artillery
 32 mortars
 18 field artillery
 3 Colt automatic guns
 4 Gatling guns, 10 barrel
 4 Driggs rapid fire guns, 6 pounder
 3 Driggs rapid fire guns, 15 pounder

Quartermaster Department

22 army wagons
 8 escort wagons
 7 spring wagons
 4 ambulances
 91 horses
 31 mules, draft
 64 civilians³⁴

Back in January 1898 the Presidio of San Francisco's garrison totaled 40 officers and 903 enlisted men.

33. Post Orders in General Orders 1904-1905, RG 393, NA. The above excerpts have been paraphrased.

34. Post Returns, January 1904. A year later, in March, the post returns noted the presence of a battalion of Philippine Scouts en route from inland U.S. to the Philippines. They remained at the Presidio for two days, March 29-31, 1905.

Eight years later, by December 1905, the garrison had increased fifty percent, to 51 officers and 1,372 enlisted men. In addition, 34 officers and 815 men occupied the Infantry Cantonment on the eastern boundary. These increases resulted in crowded accommodations and, in turn, much improvisation and new construction on the military reservation.

B. The Establishment

Before the Spanish-American War the Presidio's garrison consisted of a mixture of infantry, artillery, and cavalry units. In 1901 the Army divided the Artillery into Coast and Field units and from then on the number of coast artillery troops at the Presidio increased dramatically – from one company in 1901 to ten companies in 1905. During the same period cavalry troops increased from two to five. While field artillery units remained at three batteries, infantry troops disappeared from the Presidio's roster:

Units

February 1901. 1 coast artillery, 1 field artillery, 2 cavalry, 3 infantry

December 1905. 10 coast artillery, 3 field artillery, 5 cavalry, 1 hospital corps

Strength

January 1898. 41 officers, 885 enlisted men

December 1905. 51 officers, 1,372 enlisted men

This huge increase in coast artillery units led to the Army's decision to establish a new and separate artillery post in the western portion of the Presidio reservation. Sometime in 1900 Col. Jacob B. Rawles, the post commander, and Brig. Gen. William Shafter, commanding the Department of California, held a meeting at which they agreed on the location for the erection of from four to six barracks for the Coast Artillery. Rawles later wrote that he had not seen correspondence between Shafter and the War Department, whose approval was essential for any new construction, and did not know how many barracks Washington had contemplated building. He wrote that in choosing the site he and Shafter had kept in mind "harmonious conditions as to surroundings and the character of the ground thereabout." The site proved to be an area west of the national cemetery, in the vicinity of the intersection of today's Park and Lincoln boulevards.³⁵

35. Rawles, November 17, 1902, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

A more enlightening document came from the pen of Maj. Gen. S.B.M. Young, then the president of the Army War College in Washington, D.C. In a discussion of coastal defenses, he wrote that at San Francisco construction had begun on barracks for the coast artillery troops in the vicinity of the batteries. When those companies moved into their new quarters, infantry troops would occupy the main post at the Presidio for the land defense of the coastal batteries. The War College Board recommended six companies of infantry along with four troops of cavalry for the Presidio.³⁶

Construction of a single, two story, wood frame barracks began at the end of 1901. At the same time work began on two officers' quarters (one a duplex, the other single) at the east end of the road later known as Kobbe Avenue. The department turned over all three buildings to the Presidio on the last day of 1902. About the same time the quartermaster department constructed a new brick ordnance shop for the coastal batteries near the west end of Kobbe Avenue:

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 682. | Barracks for one company | \$28,720 |
| 1302. | Single set, officer's quarters | 8,331 |
| 1304. | Double set, officers' quarters | 15,617 |
| 1339. | Ordnance repair shop | 1,938 ³⁷ |

The idea of a new post lived on. In 1904 an Advisory Board of Officers recommended that active measures be taken to continue construction of a new artillery post to be separate from the "old" Presidio. It suggested that the time had come to obtain an appropriation from Congress. Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, commanding the department, agreed and so informed the War Department. There the

36. S.B.M. Young, May __, 1903, to AG, RSA, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

37. Chief Quartermaster, Department of California, January 14, 1903, to CO, PSF; S. Pratt, March 23, 1904, Inspection Report, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. In an earlier study I mistakenly wrote that this barracks had been built for the Presidio's cavalry troops. In 1902, however, the Presidio's complement of cavalry doubled from two to four troops. At the end of the year the garrison consisted of five companies of coast artillery, four batteries of field artillery, and four troops of cavalry (Third Squadron, 9th Cavalry). While the new barracks was built to accommodate future growth in coast artillery, it would seem that for the time being the five brick (double) barracks were sufficient for the coast artillery, while the eight units of cavalry and field artillery competed for space. It is possible that one troop of the 9th Cavalry occupied the new barracks. It is known that the squadron was housed at the main post and not at the Infantry Cantonment, as was its successor, the 4th Cavalry.

quartermaster general directed MacArthur to start the planning but to wait until the next session of the Congress before asking for an appropriation. In July 1904 Col. Charles Morris, the Presidio's new commander, received instructions to convene a new board of officers to consider a suggested location for the new post. In the fall of 1905 the Department of California learned unofficially that a complete post was to be erected at Fort Point "in the near future."³⁸

Returning to 1898, housekeeping at the Presidio brought about numerous developments. Early in January the commander decided that the old quarters at Fort Point occupied by married men should be torn down, having become "wretched." Also, he wanted the Engineers to remove the manure at Fort Point they had allowed to accumulate. The engineers replied they already had begun to spread the manure as a top dressing on the earthen slopes of the new batteries. The post surgeon reported that the octagonal tower added to the hospital just the year before leaked through its skylight. The post quartermaster asked for permission to erect eleven additional street lamps at the post and for additional oil for the same.³⁹

Ever since the outbreak of hostilities and the increased troop movements at the Presidio, the old wood frame guardhouse had become wholly overtaxed. As one officer wrote, it had not been built on sanitary or reformatory principles. As a result the Presidio acquired a new brick guardhouse (210) in 1899. Erected at the north end of the line of brick barracks, the building cost \$14,000. It had six single cells and two cages, each capable of holding fourteen men. Plumbing and gas piping added \$1,423 to the bill. The cost of installing hot water heating came to \$1,620.⁴⁰

On September 10, 1899, fire struck the two story, wood frame bachelor officers' quarters, the Corral. Newspapers reported that a defective flue was the probable cause of this the thirteenth fire in the same building. Although soldiers attacked the fire promptly, the building burned to the ground leaving fifteen officers and seven of their families homeless. No casualties resulted and the people succeeded in

38. Morris, January 24, 1904, to Department of California, and accompanying correspondence; Chief Quartermaster, Department of California, September 23, 1905, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

39. E. Miles, January 7, 1898; C.R. Suter, January 27, 1898; Post Quartermaster, March 16, 1898; Post Surgeon, February 24, 1898, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

40. B. Moseley, November 18, 1898, to CO, PSF; Rawles, June 4, 1900, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received, RG 393; PSF Summary Sheets of Contracts 1899, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

removing their household effects safely. The city fire department arrived at the site and saved the adjacent chapel. As the garrison increased in strength in the next few years, the shortage in officers' quarters caused much concern at the Presidio. Finally, on July 11, 1904, a handsome brick BOQ, 42, on the same site as the former building opened its doors.⁴¹

The post hospital, built during the Civil War, showed its age as the new century dawned. Originally designed for fifty beds its capacity had been reduced to twenty-five by 1900. The volunteer camps and the Infantry Cantonment caused great increases in the daily sick call. The Army's surgeon general recommended that when the number of bed patients exceeded the hospital's capacity, the excess men be sent to the nearby U.S. General Hospital. The post surgeon urged the construction of new latrine facilities for the hospital in 1901 because the existing arrangement had become unsatisfactory and unsanitary. By 1902 it became necessary to erect two tents nearby to take care of the daily sick call. Another doctor penned a lengthy letter in 1903 listing the many repairs the hospital required. Floors, stairs, doors, and roof all needed fixing. The entire building, inside and out, could use fresh coats of paint. Post Surg. William Stephenson penned an even longer list a year later. His successor, Capt. W.R. Reynolds, pointed out that the hospital had become incapable of accommodating the increasing number of patients, "As is well known the building is old and unsanitary and its facilities are not only inferior to the General Hospital but also inferior to those of most post hospitals."⁴²

As 1905 drew to a close, the decision came down to close the wards and to transfer remaining patients to the U.S. General Hospital. The old post hospital continued to handle the daily sick call and to serve as an "emergency hospital."⁴³

41. *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 10, 1899; Rawles, April 15, 1902, to AG, USA; Chief Quartermaster, Department of California, July 11, 1904, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. Known generically as Pershing Hall, 42, the three wings of the building were named Pershing Hall (General of the Armies John J. Pershing, commanded an infantry brigade at the Presidio), Keyes Hall (Capt. Erasmus D. Keyes, early regular army commander of the Presidio), and Hardie Hall (Maj. James A. Hardie, first American commander of the Presidio.) Presently the BOQ serves as a Visiting (Senior) Officers' Quarters (VOQ).

42. W.A. Forwood, April 18, 1900, to Department of California, Letters Sent; Lt. Col. ___, March 11, 1903, to AG, USA; and W. Stephenson, March 30, 1904, both in Letters and Endorsements Sent, Medical Department; Post Surgeon, February 13 and June 17, 1901, to CO, PSF; and W.R. Reynolds, October 19, 1904, to CO, PSF, both in Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

43. W. Stephenson, October 16, 1905, to CO, PSF; Letters and Endorsements, Medical Department; Morris, June 30, 1906, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

In 1900 troops reoccupied the two brick barracks that the General Hospital had used since its establishment in 1898. The post quartermaster complained that the keys to the doors and lockers and the window and door screens all were missing. The General Hospital, however, continued to occupy some of the old one story, wood frame barracks. By the summer of 1901 the Presidio began to feel the need for these buildings as the command increased in size. Colonel Rawles pointed out that they were post buildings and they were needed. At that point the General Hospital suffered a severe fire that destroyed two wards and other facilities. Rawles remained firm saying that the General Hospital could use tents during its emergency. It was completely independent from the Presidio and the Presidio should have its own buildings back. Because of the overcrowding, the Army put down floors in the attics of the brick buildings making them into squad rooms. One company commander complained, however, that the attics were cold and damp and required stoves.⁴⁴

The Lower Presidio came more and more into prominence after 1900. Much of the area remained swampy but gradually steps were taken to drain and fill, particularly toward the east. A ten-inch iron pipe extending forty feet into the bay near the Presidio wharf flushed all excreta from the main post. A small crematory near the bay burned combustible garbage, while such solid wastes as ashes and tin cans were dumped on the flat immediately south of the corral that stood on the bay's edge. Stable refuse also was dumped and dead animals were cremated in this area. In 1904 the Presidio laid 900 feet of an eighteen-inch pipe to drain the one remaining pond in the northeast corner of the reservation, along with surface drainage, into the bay. Previously, soldiers had used the pond for bathing.

In 1900 the Presidio threw up temporary, shed-like stables below the bluffs on the Lower Presidio for horses that were en route to the Philippines. A 1906 map showed eleven of these stables along with a small corral, a veterinary hospital, and other small buildings. A short distance to the east the quartermaster erected a new L-shaped quartermaster stable. Still farther east stood a long "forage storehouse" (said to have been built in 1896 and later a post exchange building, 201). The former lagoon to the north of these stables was shown as "filled in."

44. Rawles, July 14, 1901, to Department of California, Letters Sent; A.W. Kimball, July 19, 1900, to CO, PSF; CO, 92d CA, June 21, 1901, to CO, PSF; and AG, Department of California, April 21, 1902, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

"Filled in," however, did not mean dry land. When the four troops of the 9th Cavalry arrived at the Presidio in 1902 they learned that the shed stables would house their horses. They immediately applied for the stables on top of the bluff only to be refused. Dissatisfied, they next requested that saddle rooms, sleeping facilities for the stable sergeant and orderlies, and a blacksmith shop be provided. An inspector general in 1905 described the area as still being boggy and in wet weather the roads around the stables were "often impracticable." He found the stable yards and the picket lines in poor condition. Those stables used by the cavalry needed new wooden floors and partitions between the horses. He also recommended the installation of screens for the flies were terrible.

Colonel Morris responded to the inspection report saying that the muddy conditions were unfortunate but unavoidable. About 125 loads of crushed rock from Angel Island had already been placed about the stables and the picket lines. When the 2d Squadron of the 4th Cavalry replaced the 9th Cavalry in 1904, the situation became further complicated. Because of the steady increase in the number of artillerymen at the main post, these new cavalry troopers were forced to occupy temporary quarters on the eastern side of the Infantry Cantonment. This meant a long tramp between the barracks and the stables. Morris pointed out it was not as far as the coast artillery had to march daily to reach the guns.⁴⁵

With the erection of the U.S. General Hospital, mounted troops at the Presidio had to search for a new drill field. The low ground to the north and east of the hospital became the new site, though far from perfect. For one thing an open drain from the hospital directed its waters to the drill ground. Colonel Rawles asked the hospital commander to correct the situation. Then there were times the field dried up and the cavalry and artillery drills raised considerable dust. Apparently some nearby residents complained to Congressman Kahn saying that the army horses were covered with dust from head to toe and that the general lack of drainage lead to much sickness and malaria. Colonel Rawles informed Kahn that he agreed that the flats should be further filled and drained, but that the problems had been overstated. The General Hospital's patients had in no way been injured by the drills.

45. CO, 3d Squadron, 9th Cavalry, October 28, 1902, and January 24, 1903, to CO, PSF; Morris, May 8, 1905, to Pacific Division, Register of Letters Received; Morris, September 30, 1904, to Department of California; Captain Burgess, May 15, 1905, to Post Quartermaster, Letters Sent; Post Surgeon, ca. June 1904, Letters and Endorsements, Medical Department, RG 393, NA. Besides the cavalry and the quartermaster, an artillery battery and a company from the Hospital Corps had stables on the Lower Presidio.

The mounted troops raised a new concern in 1903. The depot quartermaster in San Francisco had already erected two large storehouses immediately to the east of the Presidio wharf. Now, he proposed to construct two similar buildings adjacent to the first. If built these would further encroach upon the drill field, especially for the field artillery drill. The quartermaster won and soon two additional storehouses, along with a morgue and other small buildings appeared in the vicinity of the wharf. An inspector general's report in 1905 summed up the drill field's problems. It said that the flat on the water front in "front" of the General Hospital was still marshy and boggy in part and should be further drained and filled. It was the only suitable drill ground for preliminary mounted drill, for accurate close order movements, and reasonably close to both barracks and stables. As for the golf links, while they were excellent for work requiring varied ground, they were not suited for preliminary drill; besides they were far away at the end of a long hill. Slowly, conditions at the Lower Presidio improved.⁴⁶

Toward the end of 1898, Lt. Col. Henry Wagner, commanding the post, noted that no repair work on the Presidio roads had been carried out for a long time. He requested a detachment of general prisoners from Alcatraz Island be sent to begin road repairs. By 1902 the work was well underway. The quarry on Angel Island supplied crushed rock for the road from the Presidio wharf to the main post and the roads in the Infantry Cantonment. Colonel Rawles insisted that the work continue. In 1903 nearly \$5,000 were spent on the endeavor. A new road extended from the quartermaster storehouses near the wharf eastward to the city streets in 1904. That year a new entrance to the reservation was completed at the end of Broadway Street. Another new road, later named Park Boulevard, joined what was then called Upper and Lower McDowell (Lincoln Boulevard and Kobbe Avenue). A new stone gateway was erected at the 7th Avenue entrance at a cost of \$1,206 in 1903. The department quartermaster asked if the Presidio had any old guns to display at that place.⁴⁷

Another new building, one most important to the troops, that was erected in 1903, the combination brick

46. CO, 5th Battery, Field Artillery, August 12, 1902, to CO, PSF; Register of Letters Received; Rawles, March 25, 1902, to Department of California; G.T. Grimes, April 27, 1903, to Department of California; Captain Burgess, May 15, 1905, to Post Quartermaster, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA; Map, "The Presidio of San Francisco," 1906, RG 77, NA. As late as 1909 Congressman Kahn drew attention to citizens' complaints about the "terrible" dust, this time from the adjacent resort run by the Rudolph Herman Company.

47. Wagner, November 17, 1898; Rawles, September 18, 1902; Morris, June 30 and November 2, 1903, and June 30, 1904; all to Department of California, Letters Sent; Post Quartermaster, October 21, 1902, to CO, PSF; Chief Quartermaster, Department of California, January 21, 1903, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

gymnasium and post exchange (122) cost no less than \$34,436. Its plumbing and wiring cost an additional \$2,280, and the gymnastic apparatus and bowling alleys, \$2,750. An inspector general visited the building two years later. He was not pleased with what he saw in the bowling alley: walls damaged in vicinity of the pit, dirty alleys, smoke covered ceiling, ball trough broken, and nine of the sixteen bowling balls useless.⁴⁸

Other recreational facilities introduced during these years included a new lawn tennis court in the Infantry Cantonment, near the eastern boundary and opposite the city's Union Street. The cantonment had to borrow the Presidio's large roller to smooth the surface. In 1903 the Presidio's officer in charge of athletics, Capt. J.W. Hinkley, Jr., recommended the approval of three handball courts being constructed. He noted that interest in that sport was rapidly increasing. The site selected was in the rear of the quartermaster paint shop, then building 103, in the area that became the "new" parade ground in front of the brick barracks. The next year the Presidio had plans prepared for a new bandstand to be located at the "Alameda circle."⁴⁹

Electricity had been creeping into the Presidio from the city as early as 1900. That year the Department of California asked the Presidio who had given permission to the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company to string its wires on government telephone poles on the reservation. It seemed that these electrical wires were interfering with telephone conversations. Colonel Rawles replied that he did not know who gave authority for supplying electricity to the quarters of Col. James Marshall, the division quartermaster (Rawles at that time was trying to get Marshall ousted from the reservation inasmuch as he was not a post officer and had no right to quarters). Nor did he know the authority for electricity at the General Hospital. As for himself, he gave permission for wires to be strung for lighting the officers' club. In any case the electric company would be required to rectify the situation.

While the Corps of Engineers proceeded with the electrification of the coastal defenses, the Presidio debated the virtues of gas vs. electricity for the interior and exterior post lighting in 1905. While the post engineer concluded that electricity would be better and that the Presidio could produce its own power at a

48. PSF, Summary Sheets of Contracts, 1903-1904, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Captain Burgess, May 23, 1905, Report of Inspection, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

49. E.S. Wallon, December 5, 1902, to CO, PSF; J.W. Hinkley, August 4, 1903, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; Captain Burgess, May 23, 1904, to Post Quartermaster, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

cost below that of the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company, several years would pass before electrification came to the reservation.⁵⁰

An earlier chapter noted that a branch of the post exchange had been established at the cable car terminus in 1899. Three years later this cigar and refreshment stand became a bone of contention. Each of the two infantry regiments (the 7th and 19th) then at the Depot of Recruit Instruction asked the Department of California for a share in the profits of this branch since their men frequented it as customers. Colonel Rawles objected strenuously saying that his troops were the more frequent customers, the stand was on Presidio land and not in the Depot, and it was completely under his jurisdiction. In conclusion, he said, the Depot (Infantry Cantonment) could not hold shares in the Presidio Exchange because it was a separate command.

Maj. Gen. Robert P. Hughes, then commanding the department, thought it unwise to continue the branch exchange because it was causing contention that was not in the best interest of the service. Nevertheless, he gave Rawles another opportunity to state his case. Rawles remained adamant and the stand remained under the Presidio's exchange for a time. When the stand eventually became unprofitable, the Presidio loaned it to the Infantry Cantonment. In 1904 the Presidio commander, Colonel Morris, thought it advisable to discontinue the operation and to remove the building.⁵¹

During these years several additional Presidio structures underwent either construction or changes. While difficult to weave into a narrative, they are listed here rather than be ignored or forgotten.

1902 The post quartermaster reported the construction of two storehouses at a total cost of \$21,750. While not positively identified, these two structures probably were the two storehouses built at the Presidio wharf for the depot quartermaster.

50. Signal Officer, Department of California, November 14, 1900, to Rawles; Rawles, November 19, 1900, to Department of California; W.C. Davis, June 2, 1905, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

51. CO, 19th Infantry, November 18, and CO, 7th Infantry, November 20, 1902, to Department of California; Rawles, November 28 and December 28, 1902, to Department of California; J.R. Williams, December 20, 1902, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; Morris, July 12, 1904, to CO, Infantry Cantonment, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA.

- 1903 The Corps of Engineers razed what was left of its old compound on the bluffs above Fort Point. At the same time it prepared plans for new structures near the Engineer Wharf.
- 1904 A contractor continued to lay a drain and fill the ravine, probably south of the row of brick barracks. Cost of contract, \$17,585.
- 1904 A new coal shed at and an addition to the Presidio wharf were completed, \$5,340.
- 1905 Estimates were prepared for the construction of a boardwalk on Lovers Lane. The document stated that this path had been built fifteen years earlier. About the same time a board of officers concluded that the Central (Presidio) Avenue gate had become important enough to have the Jackson Street cable cars enter the Presidio at that point.

The "Lombard and Union" [Greenwich?] entrances were "assuming more and more a back door aspect."⁵²

By the end of 1905 the Presidio of San Francisco, its facilities greatly improved during the past fifteen years, stood poised for its evolution into two separate, major installations – a coast artillery post for the defense of San Francisco Bay against hostile fleets, and an infantry post for the land defense of the coastal batteries. A tremendous earthquake a few months later caused a suspension of these schemes.

52. Bearss, *Fort Point*, p. 325; T.H. Handbury, March 4, 1902, to C.E. Gillespie; PSF, Estimates for a boardwalk, General Correspondence 1890-1914 and 1894-1923, OCE, RG 77; Summary Sheets of Contracts 1903-1904, CCF, OQMG, RG 92; Morris, June 30, 1904, to Department of California, Letters Sent, RG 393, NA. The Jackson Street cable cars never did enter the Presidio.